

# MARYLAND BIRDLIFE

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*Cylburn Mansion, 4915 Greenspring Ave., Baltimore 9, Md.*



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## WILDLIFE HIGHWAY FATALITIES

Jan Reese

Did you ever wonder how many birds die a highway death? Or how many dead rabbits you could count on the road in the course of a year?

During 1964 I took two counts of highway fatalities daily, one at 7 a.m. and the other at 6 p.m., along a typical sixteen-mile stretch of Maryland highway in Talbot County. The highway, Maryland Route 33 from Tilghman Island to St. Michaels, is two lanes wide with twelve miles of level, paved road, bordered by new shoulders. The remaining four miles are practically shoulderless and the road surface is rounded. The grass is very tall along all sixteen miles, as the State cuts it only once a year (early spring, tax paying time). The countryside is largely used for farming. Fields adjoin the highway for most of its length, but there are some wooded areas (especially Loblolly Pine), a little marsh, and one town.

Table 1 gives a complete record of the dead reptiles, birds, and mammals that I observed on my twice-a-day trips in 1964. This does not, however, represent the total annual mortality of these wildlife species along this particular stretch of highway. During rainy or snowy periods, when the driver and the victim are partially blinded, fatalities are high and counting is especially difficult. Wildlife come to feed at the clear roadside and are readily killed and quickly disintegrate or are taken by scavengers. Some victims are critically wounded, but manage to move to a secluded spot to die. The tall grass, shoulderless road, immediate pick-up by scavengers, birds wedged in grilles, and the human pick-up of deer and domestic pets are some of the factors that contribute to the incompleteness of this story.

I did not attempt to count frogs or other amphibians. On rainy nights in early spring these little animals are killed by the hundreds when they come out of the ditches to bask in the warmth of the asphalt.

Returning to the recorded casualties, there is an answer to how and why each of these victims dies. The majority of the mammals are blinded by headlights at night. The reptiles are unable to move fast enough to avoid an approaching vehicle. The birds, especially young one with no previous experience with traffic, misjudge the speed of automobiles. The slaughter, as with human fatalities, will go on and will grow with each coming year as the numbers of highways, cars, and drivers continue to increase.

Table 1. Highway Kill by Months

SPECIES	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER	YEAR TOTAL
<u>REPTILES</u>													
Snapping Turtle	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
East. Mud Turtle	-	-	-	1	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	3
East. Box Turtle	-	-	-	3	2	3	5	3	2	-	-	-	18
No. Black Racer	-	-	-	1	3	1	8	4	5	5	-	-	27
<u>BIRDS</u>													
Chicken	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4
Bobwhite	1	1	1	1	4	9	11	-	2	5	5	-	40
Mourning Dove	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	4
Yellow-bill. Cuckoo	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	3	1	-	-	-	6
Yellow-shaft. Flicker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-	3
Red-bell. Woodpecker	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Tree Swallow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-	-	5
Common Crow	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	2
Mockingbird	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Catbird	-	-	-	-	1	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	4
Brown Thrasher	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Hermit Thrush	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Robin	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Starling	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	4	-	-	6
House Sparrow	-	-	1	-	5	5	15	6	21	9	-	-	62
Eastern Meadowlark	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	3
Common Grackle	-	-	2	1	7	4	-	1	-	2	-	-	17
Brown-headed Cowbird	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Cardinal	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	4	1	1	-	-	8
Savannah Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
White-thr. Sparrow	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	19
Song Sparrow	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Unidentified Bird	4	2	1	-	9	5	9	6	10	3	-	-	49
<u>MAMMALS</u>													
Virginia Opossum	1	-	2	2	6	4	-	2	2	1	1	2	23
Raccoon	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	9	1	1	15
Striped Skunk	-	3	1	-	-	-	4	1	2	5	2	-	18
Domestic Dog	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	2	-	-	5
Domestic Cat	3	-	-	2	4	2	-	1	-	2	3	3	20
Gray Squirrel	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	1	-	-	7
Meadow Vole	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Muskrat	-	-	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Norway Rat	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Common Cottontail	8	10	18	16	6	7	9	5	6	12	7	12	116
White-tailed Deer	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Unident. reptile, mammal	1	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	-	9
Total reptile kill	0	0	0	5	6	5	14	7	7	5	0	0	49
Total bird kill	27	8	8	2	27	26	42	22	39	35	5	1	242
Total mammal kill	15	15	23	22	18	16	16	12	17	33	15	18	220
Grand total	42	23	31	29	51	47	72	41	63	73	20	19	511

In this one year, at least 116 rabbits died on this sixteen-mile segment of road. One hundred miles of similar road would have an annual kill of more than 700 rabbits. I do not know how many miles of highway there are in the State, but at the rate of seven rabbits per mile the total kill would be staggering. Average yearly traffic passing over this piece of road was 866,875 vehicles. When divided by my total annual kill of 511, one out of every 1696 cars killed some visible form of wildlife.

Some interesting correlations can be made by studying Table 1. Reptile fatalities were recorded during only seven months of the year, April through October. These fellows are active during the warm portion of the year only. The peak kill came during the hottest months, July, August, and September. The black snake heads the reptile list, thanks to the "Hate Snake" drivers.

As you can see, birds are well represented. If I had not been a birder and had not looked a little sharper for small birds beside the road, I believe the recorded kill of mammals would have been higher than for birds. Locally breeding birds and a few fall migrants kept the bird kill fairly steady for six months, May through October. Most of the birds killed were immatures and juvenals. One upsurge in mid-winter can be blamed entirely on the small amount of snow that we had. July was the worst month for bird casualties and all these birds were probably local breeders. House Sparrow led the list, but Bobwhite was not far behind. Note the low numbers for some of the most common, year-round roadside feeders: Cardinal, Robin, Common Grackle, Starling, and Song Sparrow. The species that surprised me the most was the Mockingbird. I think you will agree with me that the Mockingbird is among the top three roadside birds one sees from a car in Talbot County. Yet I found only one fatality of this species all year.

The mammal casualties were highest at two periods during the year: just prior to hibernation and just after hibernation. In both periods the animals had to search harder for food, as they do every year at these times. Also, spring brings on the search for a mate by some species, and fall the search for a good spot to spend the winter. These being the most restless times of the year for these animals, the kill also reached its highest points. The rabbit kill was five times as high as that detected for any other mammal. Note that the peak domestic dog kill came during "dog days" (July and August). Domestic cats ranked third highest in mammal fatalities. I always thought cats were fast; maybe their kill is high just because there are so many of them.

I would encourage others to make similar daily counts in other areas. Data from different parts of the State would be interesting for comparison. If anyone else has kept a record of wildlife highway fatalities in Maryland, or would be interested in keeping one, I would like very much to know about it.

Box 213, Tilghmans Island

## PHALAROPE IN FREDERICK COUNTY

Carl W. Carlson

"Lilypons" is a huge complex of impoundments used in the raising of goldfish and lotus plants; formerly it had a postoffice and obtained considerable publicity by adopting the name of the then prominent soprano. The area is located on the Monocacy River about 7 miles south of Frederick. The impoundments are drained at intervals when fish are removed, fry are planted, etc. The drained ponds have muddy bottoms and apparently offer excellent feeding for birds. In 1964 (August - October) several of us made periodic visits and found a total of 12 species of shorebirds, including Dunlin. This year in the same period we have observed 14 species, including a Sanderling and the two birds discussed below.

On October 17, 1965, in a drained pond, I found a phalarope in company with five other species of shorebirds. The birds permitted me to approach closely and to sit on the dike and observe them with the balscope. The phalarope was feeding busily, at first while swimming and then along the water-edge, walking and swimming in turn. The bill was black, about equal in length to the head diameter, and very thin. The cap and nape were solid black, and the neck stripe reached down to the striped or streaked back. Both back and wings were blackish, or blackish-gray, with much white visible, so that the general effect was that of the black-white contrast of an avocet; this, apparently, indicates that the bird was immature. The legs were black. When flushed, the bird showed strongly contrasting black:white wing and back patterns. In short, the bird agreed in detail with the field marks of the Northern Phalarope.

On October 29, Mrs. Sarah Baker, Mrs. Nell Cooley and the writer visited Lilypons in search of the Northern Phalarope and found it -- we thought. However, closer view showed that this bird did not have the needle bill and was quite different in plumage. There were no other birds in the impoundment so it was easy to come to within 20 feet. We observed the bird for at least 30 minutes, using 8x to 12x binoculars.

The most noticeable marking was the unstreaked, "french-blue" back plumage; none of us had seen this before, and did not find mention of it in Peterson, and therefore noticed it particularly. The bill was rather like that of a Semipalmated or even a Western Sandpiper; in length, it was about equal to the head diameter, was definitely broad at the base, and generally was quite unlike the needle-bill of the Northern Phalarope. We were able, when the bird paused in just the right position, to see a small amount of yellowish at the base of the lower mandible. The cap and nape were darkish gray, but seemed to be losing out to the adjacent white, since there were white spots in the cap and white granulations along all the edges. At one point, the bird fortunately walked up on the mud to give us a clear view of its legs which were a light straw color. We flushed the bird repeatedly; it would complain ("preep!") and flutter to the far side of the puddle, showing a



wingbar, but only a mild contrast of white and grays. Subsequent consultation of the references resulted in identification as an immature Red Phalarope. This is the first record of a Red Phalarope in Frederick County and the first inland sighting in the Maryland—District of Columbia area since 1912.

On October 30, Philip Etter and Michael O'Brien found the Red Phalarope and confirmed the field marks reported above. That afternoon Edward McKnight saw it and also confirmed the identification. McKnight returned on October 31, but could not locate the bird.

5706 Lone Oak Drive, Bethesda

#### A MOVEMENT OF JAEGBERS AT OCEAN CITY WITH NOTES ON IDENTIFICATION

William C. Russell

Most observers feel fortunate if they see a few jaegers during the course of a year's birding at shore localities. Occasionally larger numbers of these pelagic migrants are observed, events that can almost always be traced to severe weather conditions. Such was the case on October 7, 1965 when Henry Armistead and I saw 47 jaegers, 37 of which were almost certainly different birds, at the Ocean City jetty. The observation was preceded by a period of southeasterly winds of gale force. Wind velocities in excess of 50 m.p.h. were recorded and the pier under which we were standing lost most of its roof.

All the sightings took place between 2:30 and 4:30 p.m. and the first bird was seen immediately after we arrived. One can only speculate as to how many we might have missed. The initial ten birds (2, 2, and 6) were moving south just off the jetty, but all subsequent sightings were of birds moving north. With the single exception of one loose aggregate, the flocks were composed of 2 to 6 individuals. Practically all the birds were very close to shore, one flock of 6 even going up the inlet and ostensibly up Assawoman Bay. All the birds were light-phase adults, a somewhat surprising circumstance which enabled us to identify a larger percentage than is normally possible. Even with this aid, 21 of the 37 birds were left as just jaegers. Of the remaining 16, 12 were Parasitic (Stercorarius parasiticus) and 4 Pomarine (S. pomarinus).

As may be apparent from the number of unidentified jaegers on file, this is a difficult genus to identify. Perhaps the most useful marks, and ones which are stressed in all field guides, are the elongated central rectrices of the adults. A word of caution is necessary, for these feathers break and fray especially in the Long-tailed Jaeger (S. longicaudus) and the Parasitic. Some Pomarines have their twisted feathers so frayed that they look quite pointed. There are noticeable plumage differences which, while not entirely species specific, are useful. The infrequently seen Long-tail has a more or less immaculate white breast (occasionally yellowish buff) and underparts and a black cap which is markedly separated from the gray back by a white collar. Long-tails

show little white in the wing with usually only 1 to 3 primary shafts being white. The black phase is almost non-existent.

Separating Pomarines and Parasitics, the identification problem the Maryland birder will most likely face, is difficult, but under good conditions not impossible. Adult Pomarines have a more or less complete breast band of yellow buff overlaid by black barring. In some birds this breast band is extremely pronounced. Parasitics rarely have the yellow breast wash, but a gray to brown smudgy breast, with the black flecks (if present at all) limited to the sides. A few individuals have immaculate white breasts and the observer should be careful not to confuse these with Long-tails. Pomarines have more white in the wing primary shafts, but the overlap is too great for this to be useful in the field.

As befits its larger size, the Pomarine is a much slower flapper than its smaller cousins. On a calm day this is a first rate field mark, but its use requires experience. As a corollary to size, the behavior patterns can prove helpful. Common sense will tell that it is not worth a big bird's while to take a tiny bit of food. More than likely he would expend more energy getting it than he would derive from eating it. To give an example: Sharp-shinned Hawks eat insects and (largely) small birds, the Cooper's Hawks, robin-sized birds, quail, etc., while the large Goshawks prey on grouse, ptarmigan and other large birds. Goshawks would probably starve quickly if they had to depend on warblers for food.

The same pattern holds true for jaegers. A brief glance at a series of museum skins will show that the Pomarine has a head and bill at least twice the bulk of the Parasitic and three times the size of a Long-tail. It stands to reason that these birds do not feed on the same things, and they do not. I have never seen a Pomarine rob small terns, only large terns (Royals, Caspians, etc.) and gulls. I am sure that on occasion they do, but not when there is any choice! Parasitics, on the other hand, rely almost exclusively on the small Sterna terns if they are present. Long-tails on the breeding ground catch many insects. During our stay at the jetty, a large flock of mixed gulls and terns was feeding in the inlet. The Parasitics robbed only the Forster's and Common Terns while the two Pomarines that paused attacked the Laughing Gulls and large terns.

Until now, I have dealt exclusively with light-phase adults. Dark-phase adults are even more tricky, because plumage differences are not present. However, the tail feathers, size, and behavior are still helpful. Immatures can be frustrating. They are all heavily barred and mottled and have only stubby tail feathers. Once again, size comparison and actions are useful, but caution must be exercised.

The more one knows about a bird, the better chance he has of finding and identifying it. The above remarks on jaegers represent conclusions drawn after seeing hundreds of jaegers over a number of years. I hope they will help you identify your next jaeger.



## BREEDING STATUS OF THE OSPREY IN CENTRAL CHESAPEAKE BAY

Jan Reese

During the past three years I have undertaken a study of the breeding habits of the Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*) along the eastern shore of central Chesapeake Bay. I have been greatly assisted throughout the project by Mr. Donald Meritt of Newcomb, Maryland. This report summarizes the nesting success for these three years, discusses briefly some of the factors that contribute toward nesting failure, and describes our efforts to increase Osprey production by constructing nest platforms.

Location of Study Area

The study area is located in Talbot County, Maryland and includes most of the tidewater portion of that county. The area, which comprises about 213 square (statute) miles, is bounded on the north by latitude 38°50' N, on the east by longitude 76°05' W, on the south by 38°40' N, and on the west by 76°25' W.

Habitat

This portion of Talbot County is deeply dissected by tidal estuaries of Chesapeake Bay. The land area is rural. Harvesting and processing of seafood and agricultural products are the major industries.

Coverage

In 1963 coverage was scant; some of the nests received only one visit. The 1964 coverage was more thorough and included about four visits to each nest; in addition, the platform project was started. In 1965, the platform project was expanded and intense coverage was provided for about 100 nests. Nests were visited at about 12-day intervals during the four-month breeding season. Nest material, food, unhatched eggs, and dead young were collected for study.

Arrival

Males begin to arrive about the second week in March. Most of them are returning to nests they have occupied in previous years. They begin nest construction as soon as they arrive, anticipating the arrival of the females.

Nest Location and Description

During the three-year period, 63 percent of the nests observed were built over water. Most nests were located from 3 to 25 feet above land or water. About one-third of the nests were built in trees. Most of the other nests were on offshore duck blinds.

The nests were constructed of corn stalks and dead sticks of all sizes up to 1½ inches in diameter. Nests ranged from 24 to 60 inches in diameter and 5 to 24 inches in depth, depending upon the nest site and individual preference. The egg cup in the center of the nest was depressed and lined with sea grasses.

Platform Construction

A nest platform construction project was started in April 1964.

Scrap wood was used to construct 4 x 4 foot platforms. These were then mounted on poles in about 2 to 4 feet of water. Eleven platforms were erected in 1964; three weeks later, ten of them contained nests and breeding pairs of Ospreys. Owing to the great success, the project was expanded in 1965. Although 19 new platforms were installed, only nine of the new platforms attracted nesting birds. Those constructed in 1964, however, retained their birds and nests in 1965.

#### Nest Density

Table 1 below gives the nest densities (in active nests per 100 square miles) both excluding and including the nests that were built on our platforms.

	1963	1964	1965
Nest density excluding platforms	38	36	39
Nest density including platforms	38	41	48
Increase because of platforms	0	5	9
Density of available platforms	0	5	14

#### Eggs

The eggs are marked with dark brown to olive drab splotches on a lighter, whiter background. Egg laying reached its peak around mid-May. The most frequent clutch size is three, although sets of one and two are fairly common, and four eggs are laid occasionally. Incubation usually lasts 28 to 30 days, although in some instances the eggs were incubated for several days longer before they hatched. Egg mortality is usually around 50 percent.

#### Young

The number of newly hatched young reached a peak in early June. The young are very hardy and are almost assured of survival, although they appear meek at first. They become aggressive when about five weeks old, and are capable of flight when they reach seven to nine weeks of age.

#### Loss of Nests, Eggs, and Young

The greatest cause of nest destruction is man. The U. S. Coast Guard destroys approximately 15 nests a year in this area. These are nests that are built on channel markers and the removal of nests is necessary for human safety. Ordinarily the nests on channel markers are removed prior to egg laying. Since some of the dispossessed birds probably re-nest elsewhere, we do not count these destroyed nests in our annual total.

Most nests are at least 100 feet from shore, and are thus rather inaccessible to the more common predators. There were two cases of egg robbing, both involving nests that were over land. I attribute these egg losses to raccoons and rats. We have observed Common Crows flying around nests that have been abandoned recently, but have not seen crows in the act of taking eggs.

Table 2 gives a summary of the eggs that did not hatch. Eggs destroyed by Coast Guard were all in buoy nests that had to be removed. Other eggs destroyed by people are included under the heading Predators. The eggs classified as Infertile were eggs that remained in the nests beyond the incubation period of the Osprey; these eggs were collected. Under Disappeared are listed all eggs whose disappearance from the nests

during the normal incubation period could not be definitely allocated to one of the other categories.

Table 2. Summary of the Eggs that Did Not Hatch

	1963	1964	1965
In nest destroyed by Coast Guard	6	5	3
Destroyed by predators	4	2	4
Known to be infertile	1	5	23
Disappeared from nest	11	66	61
	22	78	91

Once an egg hatches, the young stand better than a ten to one chance of survival. All the loss of young in the study area was been from drowning, either in thunderstorms or by accidentally falling overboard.

As shown in Table 3, Ospreys are still doing quite well in Talbot County. The average number of young raised per pair of adults for the three-year period was 0.93. This is in marked contrast to the sharp decline in nesting populations and the serious decrease in hatching rate in recent years at places such as Rhode Island, the mouth of the Connecticut River, islands off eastern Long Island, and the upper coast of New Jersey. Ames and Mersereau (1964) found that the population near the mouth of the Connecticut River decreased from 71 pairs in 1960 to 24 pairs in 1963; average production for this period was 0.29 young per nesting pair.

Table 3. Success Rate of Nesting Ospreys

	1963	1964	1965
Total nests found in study area	78 (100%)	87 (100%)	103 (100%)
Accessible nests (included in study)	44 (56%)	63 (72%)	73 (71%)
Nests with eggs	27 (61%)	56 (89%)	71 (97%)
Nests in which eggs hatched	16 (36%)	34 (54%)	43 (59%)
Nests from which young fledged	14 (32%)	32 (51%)	42 (58%)
Total eggs laid	54 (100%)	138 (100%)	182 (100%)
Total eggs hatched	32 (59%)	60 (44%)	91 (50%)
Total young fledged	28 (52%)	55 (40%)	85 (47%)
Average clutch size	2.0	2.2	2.5
Average number of young produced per successful nest	2.0	1.7	2.0
Average number of young produced per pair of adults	0.64	0.87	1.16

#### Spraying

Known applications within the area consisted of periodic sprayings during June, July, and August in the towns of Easton, St. Michaels, Trappe, and Oxford. The formula used in all instances is two gallons of 57 percent Malathion E.C. diluted in 98 gallons of water. This spraying program is administered by the Maryland State Board of Agriculture,

University of Maryland. No chemical examinations have been made of birds or eggs from the study area.

#### Departure

Adult birds start leaving in late August and by mid-September all are gone. Young birds depart shortly thereafter, although some have lingered until late November, weather and food permitting.

#### Banding

All 168 young birds produced in the nests studied during the three years were banded in order to study their dispersal, their return, and their survival. All birds recovered so far have been less than one year old. Two of our banded Ospreys were recovered within the study area. Two were recovered during fall migration, one at Richmond, Virginia, the other at Bogue Sound, North Carolina. The only winter recovery came from Choco Department in northern Colombia.

#### Future Plans

Since Osprey populations are presently endangered in portions of the species' range, and since a decline in Osprey production could be indicative of serious pollution that could threaten other vertebrate species, we plan to continue our studies of this Osprey colony.

#### Literature Cited

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5623 23rd Parkway, Hillcrest Heights, Md.

### RETURN OF "ORPHEUS", THE CRIPPLED BROWN THRASHER

Hildegard H. Reissmann, M.D.

In the March 1964 issue of Maryland Birdlife (20: 26-28) I told about my flightless male Brown Thrasher (Toxostoma rufum) with a deformed upper mandible. This bird had been found just out of its nest on July 4, 1962, and had been cared for in captivity until given to me in June 1963. I gradually taught it to care for itself and it finally became independent in October 1963. It disappeared in November, but returned briefly on November 30 and "rode home" on my shoulder.

"Orpheus" was last seen in September 1964, but much to my surprise he came back for two weeks in late August 1965. He did not take earthworms from my hand, but came to within three feet of me. The tail feathers were fine except for one, but the wing feathers were stubby as before. He can fly very little, but is a fast runner—although he broke off the terminal phalanx of the middle toe of his left foot. How such a damaged creature could survive the winter of 1964-65 is really hard to understand.

Palisades on the Severn, Crownsville

# In Memoriam

## TURNER LYNN SMITH

It is with the deep shock known only when one loses a close friend that I learned of the sudden passing on Saturday, November 20, of Dr. Turner L. Smith, the State Treasurer of M.O.S. I first met Dr. Smith several years ago at Rock Run Sanctuary where he was photographing birds with a telescopic-lens system which he had invented and built.

The Smiths were members of the Harford County Chapter prior to his retirement and their move to Kent County a few years ago. He and Mrs. Smith were quite active in the early development of our Rock Run Sanctuary; and since moving across the Bay they have remained equally active in the Kent County Chapter and in statewide activities.

Dr. Smith had been Chief of the Ballistic Research Laboratory, Supersonic Wind Tunnel Branch, at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. Before that he was Professor of Mathematics at the Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh. He was one of the nation's leading physicists and had received many awards for his scientific contributions.

He will be remembered in many ways for he was a versatile man with many interests, for example, amateur bird photography. It was he who photographed the albino Slate-colored Junco that C.D. Hackman banded at Rock Run some years ago. Just a few weeks ago I visited his home on the shore of Worton Creek. It was with a twinkle of pride in his eyes that he showed me his shop where he converted his ideas into "gadgets", as he called them.

M.O.S. has lost a talented and devoted officer, a man who applied a great deal of energy to his office, but in such an unassuming way that few were aware of the major role he was playing in the development of M.O.S. He was an active participant in almost all M.O.S. activities. His sound advice and quiet leadership will be remembered by all who were fortunate enough to serve with him.

Rowland Taylor, President  
Baltimore Chapter

## THE BURNER - LOW MEMORIALS

Alice S. Kaestner

The Florence H. Burner and Seth H. Low memorials were completed on November 29, 1965 at Rock Run Sanctuary. Just as first envisioned, the Low memorial is a large redwood bird feeder mounted on a copper encased post surrounded by stone work to which a bronze plaque with Mr. Low's name and dates has been attached.

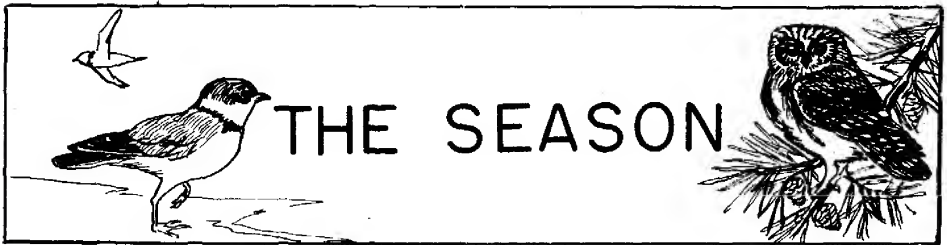
On an opposite bank is the redwood bench on a stone foundation with a bronze plaque with Miss Burner's name and dates. A dogwood tree and a trumpet vine have been planted to attract the birds next year and in the years to follow.

These memorials were planned by two committees. The ideas and labors of both were incorporated as well as those of a few ex-officio members. Mr. J. G. D. Paul, through whom we are permitted the use of the Sanctuary, donated the slate used in the foundations. Mrs. Evelyn Gregory of the Harford Chapter was most helpful in suggesting the names of two experienced and inexpensive stone masons. Bill Schneider, our designing artist, executed the sketches so that the committees might visualize the suggested ideas. We are indebted to Walter Glanville for his willing, prompt and excellent construction and erection of the bird feeder. Betty Fisher and Ruth Wormelle were active in many ways in the accomplishment of this task. The remaining members of the committee were Gladys Cole, Margaret Murison, Emilie Moore, Rodney Jones, Steve Simon, Malcolm Thomas and Alice Kaestner. These memorials will stand as constant reminders of the two splendid members whom they commemorate—FLORENCE H. BURNER and SETH H. LOW.

## BIRD CARVING EXHIBIT DRAWS WIDE ACCLAIM

"Standing Room Only" best describes the splendid response to the Kent County Chapter's unique bird carving exhibit which was held in the Parish House of Emmanuel Church in Chestertown, Nov. 4-6. More than 1,600 people from eleven states viewed the work of twenty-five of the Nation's foremost wood carvers. Fourteen of the artisans were present in person, giving demonstrations, autographing books, and adding charm and interest to the fabulous exhibit. To quote briefly from an editorial in the Chester River Press, which expressed the sentiment of so many of the visitors: "What does one say in appreciation for the breath-taking, almost unbelievable collection...It was magnificent! We doubt such an exhibit could be seen or duplicated, let alone improved upon, anywhere in the country. We are equally sure that area residents were as unprepared for such a concentration of perfection, as we were...To the Ornithological Society, its members and friends who labored on the project, Chestertown owes a debt beyond our skills to express..." To this tribute, M.O.S. members, present and future, add their own thanks to Dr. Daniel Z. Gibson, Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, their able crew of assistants, and all participating craftsmen who not only made the exhibit a tremendous success, but donated the proceeds to our Sanctuary Endowment Fund.—Ed.





JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER, 1965

Chandler S. Robbins

The early part of the fall migration period could be classified as "routine" except for indications of a major invasion of erratic visitors from the North. Drought conditions continued throughout the period, gradually becoming more severe in the north-central and northeastern parts of the State. During the first half of the period the Palmer Index of drought severity remained in the "severe drought" bracket (between -3 and -4), but after Aug. 15 the "extreme drought" area (less than -4 on the Palmer scale) spread southward across the Mason-Dixon line. At the close of the period Baltimore had a Palmer reading of -5.1. In lower New York State, the area most severely deficient in moisture, the Palmer Index was below -6 for most of the period. Weather Bureau statistics indicate a probability that a drought of this duration and severity could be expected to occur once in about 200 years. I suspect, however, that these statistics are based purely on past weather records without regard for the rate at which man is changing the ecology of his environment!

Cool weather in July and early August appears to have triggered off substantial early flights of migrants from Canada and the northern States. Especially fine flights of songbirds were noted on Aug. 21 and Sept. 26, and there were few days in late August and September when migrants were not present in good numbers.

Table 1 gives a summary of first arrival dates by counties for those transient species that were most widely reported. Underscored dates indicate that the birds were captured and examined in the hand at banding stations; for unusual records or species that are especially difficult to identify, a banding record (especially when supported by weights, measurements and perhaps photographs) is subject to less question by scientists than a report of the same species seen at a distance. We have not substituted banding records for sight records in Table 1, but have simply underscored those records that were based on banded birds.

Regrettably, it is not practical to acknowledge individually the hundreds of records included in Table 1, although the observations are kept on file at the Migratory Bird Populations Station for future reference. Those observers who contributed the great majority of the records for each county were: Frederick County--Carl Carlson, Mrs. Sarah Baker;

Table 1. Fall Arrival Dates, 1965

Species	Fred	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Calv	St.M	Kent	Caro	G.An	Talb	Worc
Whistling Swan	0	11/14	--	0	0	0	--	11/13	10/29	10/28	0	10/24	10/26	0
Canada Goose	0	--	10/ 2	0	0	0	--	10/ 3	10/ 2	9/28	9/26	9/26	9/19	10/ 3
Broad-winged Hawk	9/25	0	--	9/25	9/26	9/25	0	--	9/ 8	0	0	9/17	9/19	0
Sparrow Hawk	--	--	--	9/19	9/ 1	9/25	--	9/12	8/20	7/10	--	8/21	7/17	8/28
Semipalmated Plover	9/19	0	0	8/ 1	0	0	8/26	0	0	8/28	0	8/30	8/11	7/24
Upland Plover	8/14	0	0	0	0	7/31	0	0	0	0	0	8/ 6	0	9/14
American Woodcock	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	9/29	10/17	9/23	10/13	0	9/13
Spotted Sandpiper	--	--	--	7/ 7	8/15	--	7/29	--	--	8/28	8/10	8/21	8/10	7/ 7
Solitary Sandpiper	7/18	0	0	8/ 1	7/28	7/24	8/ 8	0	0	8/28	0	8/21	--	7/ 7
Greater Yellowlegs	9/29	0	0	0	0	--	--	0	0	8/28	8/10	8/21	7/17	7/18
Lesser Yellowlegs	9/19	0	0	7/28	0	7/11	9/10	0	0	--	0	9/ 6	8/10	7/18
Pectoral Sandpiper	8/14	0	0	8/ 1	7/17	0	8/ 9	0	0	8/28	8/10	8/29	0	7/18
Least Sandpiper	9/19	0	0	0	0	0	--	0	0	0	8/10	8/29	0	7/18
Semipalmated Sandpiper	8/14	0	0	0	0	0	8/26	0	0	0	8/10	9/ 6	7/17	7/10
Sanderling	9/19	0	0	0	0	0	8/ 9	0	0	0	0	8/29	0	8/ 1
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	0	0	8/28	0	--	--	--	8/ 8	0	8/31	9/ 9	0	8/15	9/12
Black-billed Cuckoo	9/19	0	8/ 8	9/21	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8/21	0	9/14
Common Nighthawk	0	--	0	8/11	8/16	8/26	8/13	9/10	9/16	0	--	9/ 5	8/14	8/12
Saw-whet Owl	0	0	--	--	0	11/ 2	11/ 2	0	0	10/ 6	0	10/13	--	10/18
Yellow-shafted Flicker	--	--	--	8/29	8/27	9/25	9/25	9/19	--	9/28	--	--	9/25	9/ 2
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	--	10/ 9	--	9/29	9/28	10/ 3	9/26	9/17	10/19	9/ 4	10/13	9/26	9/26	9/13
Hairy Woodpecker	--	--	--	--	--	--	10/15	--	--	10/11	--	--	11/14	10/17
Downy Woodpecker	--	--	--	--	--	--	9/25	--	--	9/ 3	--	9/12	10/ 3	9/17
Eastern Phoebe	--	--	10/ 2	--	9/28	10/ 9	10/ 9	--	--	9/ 3	--	9/30	9/26	9/12
Yellow-bellied Flycatcher	0	8/22	0	0	8/29	8/31	0	0	0	8/30	0	8/21	0	9/12
Traill's Flycatcher	0	0	8/29	0	0	0	0	0	0	9/25	0	8/21	0	9/13
Least Flycatcher	0	9/ 3	8/22	0	0	0	0	0	0	8/30	0	8/21	0	9/11
Olive-sided Flycatcher	0	9/11	0	8/23	8/29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9/18
Tree Swallow	8/14	0	0	0	8/20	--	0	0	8/27	8/30	--	8/21	9/12	8/30
Blue Jay	9/19	--	--	9/25	9/19	9/20	9/22	9/18	--	9/21	--	9/19	10/ 6	10/ 8
White-br. Nuthatch	9/25	--	--	7/17	10/ 6	9/21	8/14	10/24	9/ 2	8/24	9/26	10/13	10/ 7	9/28
Red-breasted Nuthatch	9/11	8/21	0	9/28	9/ 6	9/17	9/ 3	8/29	8/31	9/ 3	8/21	9/ 5	9/11	9/11
Brown Creeper	--	--	--	9/28	--	10/ 9	9/22	10/16	10/23	9/27	10/ 3	9/27	9/27	9/12
Winter Wren	--	--	--	10/10	11/10	10/ 9	10/ 5	--	10/13	10/ 5	10/10	9/13	10/26	9/30
Hermit Thrush	--	--	--	--	10/24	10/26	10/14	--	--	9/26	10/17	8/30	9/26	9/26
Swainson's Thrush	9/11	--	0	9/26	0	9/28	9/25	9/18	0	9/ 2	9/30	8/21	9/12	9/11
Gray-cheeked Thrush	9/11	0	0	10/ 3	0	0	0	0	0	9/11	9/30	9/11	9/12	9/16
Veery	9/11	--	8/29	9/12	9/ 4	8/31	0	0	0	8/30	9/ 8	8/21	9/ 5	9/12
Eastern Bluebird	--	--	--	--	--	--	10/ 9	--	--	11/ 2	--	10/16	10/30	10/30
Golden-cr. Kinglet	--	--	--	10/ 9	10/ 8	10/ 7	10/14	10/ 5	10/12	10/ 5	10/ 6	10/ 4	10/ 3	10/ 5
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	--	10/ 9	--	9/19	10/ 2	9/26	9/19	10/17	10/12	9/26	--	9/17	9/26	9/14
Cedar Waxwing	9/11	9/11	8/ 8	8/12	9/18	8/ 9	7/26	8/ 7	8/13	8/ 9	--	--	10/30	9/11
Loggerhead Shrike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8/27	0	9/ 3	9/ 7	9/12	0
Solitary Vireo	0	0	0	9/16	0	0	9/27	0	0	10/ 7	0	9/29	0	9/18
Philadelphia Vireo	0	0	0	8/31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8/31	9/26	9/12
Black-and-white Warbler	--	8/25	8/21	8/26	9/ 3	9/ 2	--	--	9/21	8/31	8/27	8/21	9/ 6	9/11
Worm-eating Warbler	--	--	8/15	8/28	--	--	--	--	--	0	0	8/21	0	8/29
Blue-winged Warbler	0	8/23	7/29	0	8/20	0	0	0	0	8/31	0	8/22	0	8/29
Tennessee Warbler	0	9/11	8/29	8/31	0	0	9/27	0	0	9/17	0	9/ 3	0	9/12
Nashville Warbler	0	8/25	0	8/27	9/ 3	0	9/27	0	0	9/17	0	8/21	9/26	9/18
Parula Warbler	--	--	--	8/14	--	--	--	--	--	9/15	9/27	9/17	9/26	9/16
Yellow Warbler	--	--	--	--	9/ 2	--	--	--	--	9/ 6	8/12	8/21	--	9/13
Magnolia Warbler	9/11	8/24	8/22	8/27	9/15	9/ 4	9/ 9	--	0	9/11	0	8/21	9/ 6	9/11
Cape May Warbler	0	0	0	9/19	9/30	10/12	0	0	0	9/ 2	0	8/29	0	9/22
Black-thr. Blue Warbler	0	8/23	0	9/ 9	--	8/31	0	9/26	0	8/31	9/27	8/21	9/26	9/12
Myrtle Warbler	--	--	--	10/ 4	10/ 2	10/11	10/ 4	10/ 9	10/12	10/ 4	9/27	9/27	10/10	9/26
Black-thr. Green Warbler	9/11	9/ 4	0	8/21	10/ 2	--	9/17	9/19	0	9/26	--	9/ 7	9/26	9/14
Blackburnian Warbler	0	8/21	9/ 7	8/29	0	0	8/24	9/26	0	0	0	8/29	9/26	0
Chestnut-sided Warbler	--	8/22	8/29	8/28	9/ 3	8/31	0	9/19	0	8/31	0	8/21	0	9/17
Bay-breasted Warbler	9/11	0	0	9/ 3	0	0	0	0	0	9/26	0	9/ 8	9/26	9/11
Blackpoll Warbler	--	9/ 6	0	9/28	--	--	9/14	9/19	0	9/20	10/ 4	8/29	9/26	9/12
Palm Warbler	9/25	0	0	0	0	11/ 1	10/ 3	0	--	10/17	10/26	9/14	0	9/12
Ovenbird	--	8/30	--	9/12	8/20	8/31	--	--	--	8/30	9/17	8/21	9/ 5	9/10
Northern Waterthrush	0	7/27	0	0	0	7/30	9/ 3	0	0	9/ 3	9/17	8/21	0	8/ 7
Connecticut Warbler	0	0	0	0	9/10	9/ 5	0	0	0	9/15	--	9/ 9	9/26	9/12
Mourning Warbler	0	8/24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9/26	0	9/ 3	0	9/18
Wilson's Warbler	0	8/29	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8/31	0	9/ 3	0	9/16
Canada Warbler	9/11	8/26	8/22	8/22	9/10	8/31	8/24	0	0	8/29	0	8/21	9/12	9/10
American Redstart	9/11	9/11	8/26	8/23	--	8/31	--	--	9/ 7	8/31	9/10	8/21	9/ 5	9/11
Bobolink	0	0	0	0	8/31	7/15	7/15	8/28	0	--	--	8/14	9/ 4	8/30
Baltimore Oriole	--	--	--	9/ 2	9/ 2	8/31	--	9/17	0	8/30	9/ 3	8/21	--	9/11

Species	Fred	Balt	Harf	Howd	Mont	Pr.G	Anne	Calv	St.M	Kent	Caro	Q.An	Talb	Worc
Rusty Blackbird	10/30	--	--	--	--	9/24	10/24	--	--	--	9/25	10/23	11/ 7	10/ 4
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	--	9/11	8/16	9/14	9/19	--	9/13	--	--	--	9/3	9/ 9	9/26	9/12
Evening Grosbeak	11/14	10/17	0	0	0	10/28	11/ 1	11/22	10/17	10/27	10/27	0	10/23	10/28
Purple Finch	10/14	--	0	10/ 5	9/19	9/17	10/12	0	0	10/ 2	10/30	9/ 9	10/31	9/19
House Finch	0	11/ 8	0	10/18	10/10	10/24	11/10	0	0	0	11/11	11/15	11/20	0
Pine Siskin	10/15	10/18	0	0	9/29	10/ 8	10/ 6	10/ 2	0	10/25	10/21	10/20	10/30	9/20
Rufous-sided Towhee	--	--	9/ 7	--	9/20	10/ 8	10/ 6	--	--	--	--	9/14	9/26	10/ 2
Savannah Sparrow	9/11	0	0	10/11	9/28	10/ 8	0	--	--	--	--	9/30	10/30	9/28
Vesper Sparrow	9/11	--	--	--	9/28	10/24	--	--	--	--	--	10/23	--	10/18
Slate-colored Junco	--	10/11	--	10/ 8	10/ 1	10/ 4	10/10	10/ 9	9/10	9/22	10/11	9/27	9/26	9/26
Tree Sparrow	11/13	--	--	--	11/13	11/ 4	--	0	0	0	0	0	0	10/29
White-crowned Sparrow	9/25	10/ 6	0	10/13	10/17	--	10/27	0	0	11/11	10/ 6	0	10/31	10/ 6
White-throated Sparrow	10/15	--	--	9/24	10/ 8	9/28	9/29	10/ 2	10/11	9/28	10/ 6	9/27	9/26	9/19
Fox Sparrow	10/30	11/ 1	--	10/25	10/30	10/29	10/30	11/13	11/20	11/ 6	10/26	0	11/ 4	10/13
Lincoln's Sparrow	0	0	0	0	10/ 2	0	0	0	0	9/25	10/13	10/17	--	9/26
Swamp Sparrow	10/15	--	--	10/ 7	10/ 6	10/24	10/24	--	--	10/ 4	9/27	10/ 6	--	9/12
Snow Bunting	10/30	0	0	0	0	0	11/20	0	0	0	0	0	11/11	11/19

Baltimore City and County--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, William Clark; Harford County--Mrs. Richard D. Cole; Howard--Mrs. Dorothy Rauth, Morris R. Collins; Montgomery--Carl Carlson, Robert W. Warfield, Robert L. Pyle, Lucille V. Smith; Prince Georges--Chandler S. Robbins, Vernon Kleen, William C. Russell, John H. Fales, David and Margaret Bridge; Anne Arundel--Paul and Danny Bystrak, William Anderson, Prof. and Mrs. David Howard; Calvert--John H. Fales; St. Marys--James Banagan; Kent--Mr. and Mrs. Edward Mendinhall, Daniel D. Gibson, Arlene Delario; Caroline--Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Fletcher, Marvin Hewitt, Mrs. Alicia Knotts, Mrs. Essie Pepper, Bob Pepper, Samuel H. Dyke; Queen Annes--David and Margaret Bridge, Mrs. Herbert Church, Bobby Pepper; Talbot--Don Meritt, Jan Reese; Worcester--Mrs. Richard D. Cole, Edward Rykiel, Chandler S. Robbins, Samuel H. Dyke, Robert W. Warfield, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Douglass, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kuch, Mr. and Mrs. Aldridge Pepper.

Loons, Herons. A Red-throated Loon--probably a crippled bird--was seen in the Choptank River at Cambridge on July 24 (Harry Armistead). Three species of "white herons" (excluding the Cattle Egret) wandered, as usual, into upland areas of the State after the breeding season. The Snowy Egret, which is by far the rarest of the three species away from tidewater, occurred as far inland as Seneca, where one was seen on the late date of Sept. 26 by Robert W. Warfield.

Scoters, Mergansers. Three Surf Scoters were observed in flight off Assateague Island on July 18 (Armistead and Mary Mallam); stragglers rarely summer in tidewater Maryland, far south of their breeding grounds on the Canadian tundra. The migration of Common Scoters was in progress as early as Aug. 31, when Warfield counted three flocks totaling 42 birds between 6 and 7 p.m. just offshore from Ocean City. Armistead saw a Hooded Merganser in the headquarters pond at Blackwater Refuge on July 24; this species nests regularly at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, but has not previously been found in summer on the Eastern Shore.

Hawks. The only flights of more than 100 Broad-winged Hawks reported were on Sept. 19 (200 birds in Talbot County by Jan Reese),

Sept. 21 (400 birds over Kent Island by Mrs. Rosemary Bridge), and Sept. 25 (261 in 5 hours) and Sept. 26 (233 in 2 hours) at Laurel (Robbinses). With no Peregrine Falcons known to be nesting in recent years in the eastern United States, one seen at Ocean City on the record-breaking date of August 21 by Warfield was quite certainly a migrant from the far North. Transient Sparrow Hawks are expected much earlier; the first was spotted in Talbot County on July 17 and 11 were counted on Aug. 1 (Jan Reese and Don Meritt). Their peak tally was of 46 birds on Sept. 12. Twenty-four Sparrow Hawks on Sept. 25 at Laurel, though low in comparison with counts from the eastern edge of Chesapeake Bay, is the highest one-day total the Robbinses have counted from the deck of their home. Their Sharp-shin total for the same day was only 8 birds, and no Cooper's Hawk was seen there any day this year.

Rails. On Aug. 1 Sam Dyke discovered a Black Rail in a salt marsh on Assateague Island near the bridge.

Shorebirds. The fish ponds at Lilypons in southern Frederick County proved to be the most rewarding area for shorebirds except possibly for the immediate vicinity of the Atlantic Ocean. Carl Carlson and his co-workers in the Montgomery Chapter visited Lilypons periodically throughout the season. Their phalarope report appears elsewhere in this issue. A summary of their finds for the entire fall migration period will appear as a separate paper in a later number. A new area for shorebirds was discovered by Mr. Carlson this season: The Princeton Turf Farm, which is located along the east side of Route 301 between Queenstown and Centerville in Queen Annes County. The acres of closely cropped, well-watered turf proved attractive to migrating Upland Plover (5 on August 7), Golden Plover (1 on September 12), and Killdeer (up to 77 at one time) (Marcia Lakeman, Carlson, Karl Stecher). On a flooded pasture near Delmar, Sam Dyke counted 10 adult and 6 immature Golden Plover on Sept. 17. A "flock" of American Oystercatchers was present all summer at Cape Isle of Wight, with a maximum count of 13 on Aug. 7 by Robert Warfield; 7 were still present on the flats at 8th Street, Ocean City, on Sept. 27 (Armistead and William C. Russell). Mr. Warfield points out that the fall arrival dates for the Willet in Birds of Maryland are too late. He believes that the fall migration of this species starts regularly in the first week of July (rather than July 10-20). In 1965 he saw the first migrating flock of 10 on July 2, as many as 18 on July 6, and 130 birds flying over his back yard at Cape Isle of Wight between 7:45 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. on July 10. An American Avocet was seen at the north end of Assateague Island on Sept. 27 by Armistead and Russell. If we had daily shorebird observations in the Ocean City area we would probably find that this rare species occurs in Maryland every fall.

Gulls, Terns and Skimmers. James Banagan estimated that there were 200 Great Black-backed Gulls in the Colton's Point area of St. Marys County on Sept. 3. Caspian Terns seemed scarcer than usual at Ocean City, although Armistead and Russell counted 65 there on Sept. 27. No Caspian was reported from Chesapeake Bay, which is unusual; and only 1 Royal was seen in Talbot County (Sept. 12 by Reese and Meritt). Two

Forster's Terns and 8 Common Terns seen at Seneca on Sept. 26 by Warfield apparently followed the cold front to Maryland from the Great Lakes rather than coming up the Potomac from Chesapeake Bay, as they were seen on the morning following passage of the front. A flock of 230 Black Skimmers was resting on the 8th Street flats at Ocean City on Sept. 27 (Armistead and Russell).

Cuckoos. Both species of cuckoo remained scarce in Maryland throughout the summer, and the fall migration also reflected the general scarcity in the northeastern States. At Ocean City, 10 Yellow-bills and 6 Black-bills were banded in the fall of 1965 as compared with 59 and 18 in 1964. At Kent Point, a similar difference was noted with 4 cuckoos in 1965 as compared with 17 in 1964. The only concentration of cuckoos reported was a count of 22 at Tilghman Island on the early date of Aug. 15 (Reese and Meritt).

Transient Songbirds. The migration of songbirds was well sampled at three tidewater banding stations which together spanned most of the migration period of the insectivorous species: Damsite (Mrs. Edward Mendinhall), Kent Point (David and Margaret Bridge), and Ocean City (Mrs. Richard D. Cole). In general, migrants were detected at the banding stations earlier than they were in those counties that did not have daily banding activities. This difference results partly from more intensive coverage, but more especially from the large numbers of migrants that are funneled into the strategically located areas where the banding stations are operating. Since the Ocean City station was not operating before Sept. 11, few arrival dates are available from Worcester County prior to that time.

Blue Jays. An enormous migration of Blue Jays took place during the last third of September and the month of October. Only a few observers bothered to make and report counts of this common species; but from the magnitude of flights along the eastern shore of the Bay it is obvious that the movement was one of the greatest ever recorded in Maryland. On Sept. 25, 500 were estimated at Tilghman (Reese) and 343 were counted in 5 hours at Laurel (Robbins). This was one of the commonest species banded at Kent Point, and only a small fraction of the birds present were captured.

Nuthatches and Creepers. August arrivals of Red-breasted Nuthatches in three counties presaged a big flight year for this irregular species. White-breasted Nuthatches also were present in unusually good numbers and were found in many coastal plain locations where they do not breed. The migration of Brown Creepers was better than average, but did not reach record proportions.

Waxwings. I am unable to piece together the picture of what the Cedar Waxwing was doing in various parts of Maryland during the present period. "Fall Arrivals" were submitted for as early as the last week in July, with arrival reports from 6 counties during the brief period, Aug. 7-13; yet a pair was found nesting in the Howard County suburbs of Laurel on Sept. 5 and remained in the vicinity of the nest until about



Sept. 20 (Miss Gloria Souder). Unfortunately, contents of this late nest were not checked, although the nest was collected on Sept. 26 and the identification verified. Possibly the early arrivals were birds arriving late on nesting territories! At any rate, Cedar Waxwings were widely reported in late summer, some nested east of their normal range--possibly even on the coastal plain, and waxwings were conspicuous migrants even along the coast by the middle of September.

Warblers. The Operation Recovery stations at Kent Point, Ocean City, Damsite, Rock Run Sanctuary, Denton, and Cylburn Park provided records of more than 2,000 transient warblers during this period. These will be analyzed in detail, as they contain some interesting differences in age ratio; most of the Ocean City birds were immatures. The dates and places where high one-day counts were obtained depended upon the combined effect of weather conditions, topography, and netting effort and did not necessarily coincide with the actual migration peaks. It is desirable, however, to place on record the best counts that were obtained, as these contribute toward a better understanding of conditions that produce the bird concentrations. The highest one-day banding totals for selected species at Ocean City were as follows: Black-and-white Warbler, 19 on Sept. 18; Yellow Warbler (which is never seen there in large numbers in September), 5 on Sept. 17; Cape May, 9 on Sept. 26; Blackpoll, 24 on Sept. 26; Northern Waterthrush, 25 on Sept. 26; Yellow-breasted Chat, maximum of 4 on Sept. 19 (compared with 26 on Sept. 24, 1964 and 20 on Sept. 26, 1964); American Redstart, 51 on Sept. 18. At Kent Point, with fewer nets in operation, the most noteworthy high counts were: Black-and-white Warbler, 40 on Sept. 12; Magnolia Warbler, 53 on Sept. 27; Ovenbird, 72 on Sept. 12; and American Redstart, 61 on Sept. 12. At Damsite (Tolchester Beach), near Chestertown, where the topography does not result in such spectacular concentrations, some high one-day totals for warblers were: Magnolia, 13 on Sept. 27; Black-throated Blue, 7 on Sept. 27; Ovenbird, 6 on Sept. 3; Connecticut, 2 on Sept. 18 (exceeding Ocean City's one-day total); and Mourning, 2 on Sept. 26 (exceeding Ocean City's total for the season).

Northern Finches. Table 1 contains many October arrivals of winter finches. This in a sense "scoops" the next Season report. Yet in a season when we expect a heavy influx of Evening Grosbeaks, Pine Siskins, and Purple Finches, and a good sprinkling of crossbills and redpolls, it seems well to stress the fact that observers should be on the watch for these northern birds.

House Finch. Along with the more northern visitors we are experiencing a population explosion of House Finches--descendants of western birds released by the cage bird trade on Long Island in about 1941. We wish to document as fully as possible the spread of this exotic species into Maryland and to record any competition that is noted between this and our native species. The female can easily be mistaken for a Purple Finch, but is slimmer, lacks the white eye stripe, has a smaller bill, less fork to the tail, and less conspicuous streaking on the underparts. The call suggests that of a House Sparrow, though the song reminds one of the Purple Finch. See Peterson's Western Field Guide for pictures



of both the female and the red-breasted male.

Sparrows. Every few years a stray White-throated Sparrow is found in central Maryland in mid-summer. A dull-plumaged female was studied at Savage on July 21 by Morris Collins but was not seen subsequently. None was reported in the summer of 1964, but singing males were noted on June 22, 1963 at Loch Raven and July 11, 1963 at Patuxent (Maryland Birdlife 19:77).

Migratory Bird Populations Station, Laurel



### OPERATION RECOVERY IN MARYLAND, 1965

The "big three" O.R. Stations, Ocean City, Kent Point, and Damsite, were buzzing with activity for week after week during the peak of the fall migration. More than fifty members participated in one way or another: as net-tenders, banders, photographers, weighers, record-keepers, or statisticians. Three smaller stations supplied much valuable data for comparison with results at the larger stations. Compilers are still busy completing their records, but Table 1 gives a brief summary of the figures now available. The following comments from some of the Station Leaders mention a few of this season's activities and accomplishments.

Table 1. Summary of 1965 O. R. Bandings

Station	Birds Banded	Net- Hours	Birds/ 100 N-Hr	Total Species	Best Day	Commonest Species
Rock Run	191	2,173	9	43	8/29 26	Ruby-thr. Hum. 13
Monkton	211	190	111	--	--	--
Patuxent	365	2,264	16	53	11/4 57	White-throat 93
Damsite	2,420	13,000	17		10/13 226	Tree Swallow 261
Kent Point	5,479	19,000	29	103	10/17 460	Blue Jay 954
Ocean City	10,068	24,500	41	112	10/25 1282	Myrtle Warb. 3,092

#### ROCK RUN

As in 1964, the most frequent species in OPERATION RECOVERY at Rock Run this year was the Ruby-throated Hummingbird which appeared in the nets 21 times. The next most frequent bird netted was the Canada Warbler with 13. The station was in operation 13 days on week ends from the end of July through early September. There were no returns this season because we could not cover the station during October when the winter residents begin to arrive.

H. Gordon Hackman

#### PATUXENT WILDLIFE RESEARCH CENTER, LAUREL

Only token operation was possible at Patuxent this fall, but 4 to 12 nets were run for a few hours nearly every week from Aug. 31 to Nov. 10. The primary objective was to obtain age ratios at an inland station to compare with those along Chesapeake Bay and at the coast. Ticks and mites were collected from about 120 of the birds.

C. S. Robbins

## KENT POINT

A veritable onslaught of birds, butterflies, ticks, banders, and assistants resulted in a record-breaking season for the Kent Point OPERATION RECOVERY Station. The station operated semicontinuously from Aug. 21 to Oct. 24, for a total of fifty-one days, three more than in 1964. The totals showed 5,479 birds of 103 species banded this year, as compared with 4,911 of 101 species last year.

These numerical totals cannot truly reflect the birding and banding highlights of the 1965 season. Migration of Blue Jays was continuous and spectacular. An estimated 60,000 jays passed over Kent Point this fall; 954 were banded there. Migration of jays was first noticed on Sept. 19 and was last recorded on Oct. 24, the final day the station was in operation. Daily from Sept. 21 until Oct. 10 Blue Jay was the commonest species banded.

Another interesting aspect of the migration this fall was the early arrival of northern species. Red-breasted Nuthatch, Purple Finch and Saw-whet Owl arrived respectively in August, September and October. An unprecedented 29 Saw-whet Owls were banded on Oct. 17. After their release, the amiable little owls roosted tamely on the banding table and in low bushes, much to the delight of visitors and helpers.

Monarch butterfly tagging occupied any hours the banders and assistants could spare. Butterfly migration this fall was later and less concentrated than in 1964. As a result, only 250 Monarchs were tagged as compared to 440 last fall. The Baltimore Junior group, led by Mrs. Norwood Schaffer, appeared, 40 strong, to capture and tag an additional 100 Monarchs; one of the latter has already been recovered in Texas.

Birds and butterflies were not the only creatures processed at Kent Point this year. Ticks were collected alive from birds at the time of banding. These ticks, which are actually migrating via the host, are of special interest because of certain diseases that they may disseminate. In cooperation with Walter Reed Army Medical Center and Old Dominion College, Norfolk, Virginia, about 1,000 bird ticks were collected from 200 birds; Mr. Jack Lamb and the banders participated. These ticks are now being identified and tested for diseases.

Without the help of the many banders and assistants who donated their time and equipment, this year could not have been a success. Banders who participated are as follows: David Bridge, Margaret Bridge, Danny Bystrak, Paul Bystrak, Jane Church, Marian Metcalf, Bob Pepper, Bob Pyle, Jan Reese, Betty Riedel, Ted Stiles, and Ted Van Velzen.

A special booby prize is awarded to Jane Church, who in two sultry days in September banded a total of 11 birds (2 Downy Woodpeckers and 9 Blue Jays). This is part of the excitement of OPERATION RECOVERY. Better luck next year, Jane!

David and Margaret Bridge

## OCEAN CITY

OPERATION RECOVERY banders were happy for permission to use that part of our old station at North Ocean City (now Caine Keys) which had not yet been developed. We concentrated the nets a little more and set up the banding station under the pines. We opened a week later than usual. September and October were mild months with rainfall below normal for that time of year. Some new and interesting projects were added to our usual processing this year:

Dr. Rexford Lord from the U. S. Public Health Service collected over 100 blood specimens from netted birds to make a study of encephalitis. He was as thoughtful and considerate of each bird as he would have been of a person. The birds suffered no ill effects as we found them in good condition when re-trapped in the following days.

We also collected many of the tiny ticks that occur in the ears and about the heads of so many of the birds that feed on or near the ground. These ticks were found on 21 species. Dr. Daniel E. Sonenshine of Old Dominion College has already identified most of the ticks, some of which were first records for the various host species.

The greatest rarity of the fall was the first known hybrid between a Blackpoll Warbler and a Northern Waterthrush. A detailed description of this bird will be published in The Auk (Short and Robbins).

While migration seemed to be later than usual, the irregular winter visitors (Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak and Purple Finch) arrived early because of the food shortage in northern New England and eastern Canada.

The highlights of it all to me were banding our first bluebird, first Gambel's White-crowned Sparrow, and 13 Saw-whet Owls.

Gladys Hix Cole



## MARYLAND WORM-EATING WARBLER RECOVERED IN JAMAICA

Mrs. Herbert M. Church, Jr.

An immature Worm-eating Warbler (Helminthos vermivorus), which I banded at the Ocean City Operation Recovery Station on September 5, 1964, was recaptured 1,400 miles to the south, 56 days later. It was trapped and released at Mona Reservoir, Kingston, Jamaica, West Indies, on October 31, 1964, at an Operation Recovery Station run by Mr. R. W. Smith. Mr. Smith wrote to say that this was the only foreign bird that his station had ever trapped. It is also the only Worm-eating Warbler I have ever handled. A check of the bird banding recoveries at the Migratory Bird Populations Station revealed that this is the first of its species to have been recaptured other than at the original banding site.

Janelia Farms, Ashburn, Va.

## THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

## A Premature Worry, A Handsome Gift, And An Opportunity.

At the last two Council meetings and at the October Trustees' meeting, there was expressed concern that emphasis on Life Memberships as a means of enlarging the Sanctuary Fund could have an adverse effect upon M. Q. S. operating funds. At the latter meeting it was agreed that Life Memberships might well be de-emphasized and that effort be made to build up a Sanctuary Fund with gifts for that specific purpose.

Now, all of a sudden, the solution to the problem is at hand. One of our members has made a gift to the Sanctuary Fund of securities currently valued at twenty-five hundred dollars! Since the donor wishes to remain anonymous, I was at a loss to know how we might properly acknowledge the gift and adequately express our gratitude. At last I feel I have the perfect solution. We, the rest of us, must match that gift - dollar for dollar! I've had the opportunity to talk to some of the officers and trustees, and I know it can be done. Parenthetically, I can tell you that already an offer of a gift of two hundred fifty dollars is in hand -- that's ten percent of the goal already.

Although individual gifts will be accepted, I hope that no one will interpret this as a call for a membership assessment. I should much prefer to see each of the various chapters volunteer to assume a portion of the total (the amount to be of their own choosing). Each would then adopt its own plan of fund-raising, making it a specific club project rather than a drain upon the treasury or a membership solicitation.

It would seem out of place for me to sermonize on the need for and the value of sanctuaries. We are agreed on that. We are agreed also on the need to extend and widen their use, protecting the wildlife therein even as more and more people, old and young, come to look and to learn. All this entails maintenance and operating costs - annually. However, this need not be an annual problem, once the Sanctuary Fund is adequate.

Who could have hoped for such a start as we have just had handed to us? Let us not permit a golden opportunity to slip. We can make one dollar do the work of two, simply by matching one man's generosity. How can we better express to him our undying thanks? Talk this over with your Chapter President. I shall be in touch with him promptly.

V. Edwin Unger

★

To Mrs. Richard Douglass and Mrs. Joseph Minke, apologies and belated thanks. A sentence acknowledging the very important part they played in preparing all the meals for the two-week Carey Run Nature Camp (Md. Bird-life 21: 90) was inadvertently omitted from the report. -- Ed.

# COMING EVENTS

## CHRISTMAS COUNT DATES, 1965-66

Sun.	Dec. 26	Triadelphia Reservoir	Robbins	PA 5-1176
	26	Crisfield, Somerset County	Russell	776-6760 x 71
	26	Denton	Fletcher	479-1529
Mon.	27	So. Dorchester (Blackwater)	Robbins	PA 5-1176 or
Tues.	28	Ocean City	Robbins	776-6760
Wed.	29	Chincoteague, Va.	Fred Scott	703-MI 3-4094
	29	Allegany	Martin	PA4-5510
Thurs.	30	Cape Charles, Va.	Russell	776-6760 x 71
?	?	Catoctin Mountain	Richards	447-5681
Sat.	Jan. 1	Rock Run	Garland	(no phone)
	1	Cylburn	Mrs. Lawson	377-4965
Sun.	2	Annapolis and Gibson Island	Wilson	008-3692
	2	Lower Kent County	Gibson	778-0565
	2	St. Michaels	R. Kleen	RI5-4821
	2	Seneca	Bridge	GR4-1463

## JUNIOR PROGRAM 1965-66

The bird walks and natural science talks for young people sponsored by the Baltimore Chapter of the Maryland Ornithological Society will be held at Cylburn Park on the following dates. All young people of school age are welcome.

- Dec. 18 BIRD WALK AND DECORATING THE BIRDS' CHRISTMAS TREE - 8-9:30 a.m.  
Suggested decorations to bring: strings of popcorn, peanuts, net bags of suet, etc.
- Jan. 15 BIRD WALK - 8 to 9 a.m. HOW TO STUDY ANTS, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Poole, authors of the book "Weird and Wonderful Ants" - 9 a.m.
- Jan. 29 BIRD WALK - 8 to 9 a.m. MARYLAND GEOLOGY, Miss Claire A. Richardson of the U. S. Geological Survey. 9 a.m.
- Feb. 12 BIRD WALK - 8 to 9 a.m. WILD PET SHOW - 9 a.m. If you have an interesting pet, call Mrs. Schaffer at 323-4090
- Feb. 26 BIRD WALK - 8 to 9 a.m. Showing of slides of FAMILIAR INSECTS taken by Mr. Mabon Kingsley of Chestertown. 9 a.m.
- Mar. 12 BIRD WALK - 8 to 9 a.m. THE WOODCOCK: ONE OF BALTIMORE'S MOST INTERESTING AND LEAST KNOWN BIRDS. Mrs. Alfred Lawson 9 a.m.
- Mar. 26 BIRD WALK - 8 to 9 a.m. LIFE IN THE ANTARCTIC, Mr. Robert C. Wood - 9 a.m. Mr. Wood will have just returned from a trip to the Antarctic.
- Apr. 9 BIRD WALK - 8 to 9:30 a.m.
- Apr. 11 NATURE WALK led by Mr. Green, Park Naturalist - 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- Apr. 12 BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATION - 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- Apr. 13 NATURE WALK led by Mr. Green - 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- Apr. 14 BIRD WALK - 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- Apr. 15 NATURE WALK led by Mr. Green - 9 to 10:30 a.m.
- Apr. 23 BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATION AND WALK - 8 to 9:30 and 9:30 to 11 a.m.
- May 7 BIRD WALK - 7 to 8:30 a.m. Best birding day of the year
- May 21 BIRD BANDING DEMONSTRATION AND WALK - 7 to 8:30 and 8:30 to 10 a.m.

- Dec. 21 - Jan. 2 1966 CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS - see special list
- Jan. 7 ANNE ARUNDEL Monthly meeting. Conservation Education 1966. Assembly room State Office Bldg. 8 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Roger Norden
- Jan. 8 BALTIMORE Sandy Point and Prof. & Mrs. Howard's Bird Sanctuary in Annapolis. Leader: Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner. Meet Farmer's Market, Ritchie Highway 8:15 a.m. Snow postponement date, Jan. 15
- Jan. 14 BALTIMORE Monthly meeting. Film "Nature's Birds of Prey" 8 p.m. Pratt Library
- Jan. 20 MONTGOMERY Monthly meeting
- Jan. 22 ANNE ARUNDEL "Java" and The Howat's Reconnaissance. The C. W. Hiatt's. 8:30 a.m.
- Jan. 23 BALTIMORE Covered dish supper at Cylburn Mansion 6 p.m. Reservations with chairman, Mrs. Carl Francis (NO5-3943) by Jan. 15th.
- Jan. 25 PATUXENT Monthly meeting 7:45 p.m.
- Jan. 26 ALLEGANY Monthly meeting 7:30 p.m. Speaker: Mr. Edgar Reynolds.
- Jan. 26 TALBOT Monthly meeting 8:00 p.m. Easton Library
- Feb. 1 BALTIMORE Seminar "Ornithology for the Amateur". 8 p.m. Cylburn Mansion. First of five Tuesdays.
- Feb. 2 KENT Monthly meeting, Alumni House 8 p.m. Speaker Mr. David J. Smith on "Hawks and Owls".
- Feb. 8 BALTIMORE Seminar
- Feb. 9 TALBOT Audubon Lecture. Mr. Charles T. Hotchkiss "Tidewater Trails"
- Feb. 11 BALTIMORE Monthly meeting - "Waterfowl Near and Far" Mr. Stephen Simon. Pratt Library 8 p.m.
- Feb. 12 ANNE ARUNDEL Herald Harbor, Long Point on Severn country. Meet at Herald Harbor Fire Station, 8:20 a.m. Leaders: The J. S. Wilson's.
- Feb. 15 BALTIMORE Seminar
- Feb. 17 MONTGOMERY Monthly meeting
- Feb. 18 TALBOT Monthly meeting 8 p.m. Easton Library
- Feb. 19 BALTIMORE Winter Weekend in Chincoteague-Assateague Island area. Make own reservations for Sat. night at Channel Bass Hotel, Chincoteague, Va. Register with leader, Mrs. Robert Kaestner DR7-8990.
- Feb. 22 BALTIMORE Seminar
- Feb. 22 PATUXENT Monthly meeting
- Feb. 23 ALLEGANY Monthly meeting 7:30 P. M. Speaker: Mr. Kendrick Hodgdon, "Canoeing with a Naturalist"
- Feb. 25 ANNE ARUNDEL "Arctic Bird Populations" C. Thompson, Alaska Francis Williamson, Lecturer
- Feb. 26 BALTIMORE Perry Point & Susquehanna River for wintering waterfowl. Leader: Mr. Rodney Jones (HU6-3442) Meet Edgewood Diner 8 a.m.
- Feb. 27 TALBOT Ocean City, Md. trip. Meet Easton Library 8 a.m.
- Mar. 1 BALTIMORE Seminar



- Mar. 2 KENT Monthly meeting, Alumni House 8 p.m. Speaker: Dr. William J. L. Sladen on Penguins in the Antarctic.
- Mar. 5 ANNE ARUNDEL Blue Bell Id; Pr. Georges Co., Sanitary Land Fill, Chaney's Sawmill and Luff's. Meet Little Patuxent River Bridge 8:20 a.m. Leaders: The Milton Jacques.
- Mar. 6 BALTIMORE Kent Island for waterfowl and winter residents Leader: Mr. Hank Kaestner (ID5-7682). Meet Farmer's Market Ritchie Highway 8 a.m.
- Mar. 11 BALTIMORE Monthly meeting - Nomination of Officers. Lecture by Mr. Robert Scott "Birds of Alaska" Pratt Library 8 p.m.
- Mar. 15 BALTIMORE "On with the Spring at Lake Roland" Annual series 11 Tuesday morning bird walks. Meet at footbridge near falls in Robert E. Lee Park 8 a.m. Leader: Mrs. Robert E. Kaestner
- Mar. 17 MONTGOMERY Monthly meeting
- Mar. 18 ANNE ARUNDEL "Garden Lore and Plant Habitats" 8 p.m. Speaker: Mrs. Jno. Hough
- Mar. 18 TALBOT Monthly meeting, Easton Library 8 p.m.
- Mar. 19 BALTIMORE Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge and Little Creek Wildlife area. Leaders: Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm Thomas (VA3-1132). Meet Korvette Parking 8 a.m.
- Mar. 20 TALBOT Sanctuary Work trip - Mill Creek Sanctuary 9 a.m. Bring lunch.
- Mar. 22 BALTIMORE Tuesday walk at Lake Roland 8 a.m.
- Mar. 22 BALTIMORE "Nature Photography" Cylburn 8 p.m. Class #1
- Mar. 22 PATUXENT Monthly meeting
- Mar. 23 ALLEGANY Monthly meeting. Speaker: Mr. Paul Herndon
- Mar. 27 BALTIMORE Courtship Flight of Woodcock at Dusk. Leader: Mr. C. Haven Kolb, Jr. (866-8109) Meet Hutzler's Towson 5:30 p.m.
- Mar. 29 BALTIMORE Tuesday walk at Lake Roland 8 a.m.
- BALTIMORE Class #2, "Nature Photography and Introduction to Nature Tape Recording"
- May 7 STATEWIDE Statewide Bird Count. Everyone is urged to participate in a count in his own area. See March issue
- May 13-15 STATEWIDE Annual Convention - Make reservations at Hastings-Miramar Hotel, Ocean City, Md.

\* \* \*

Helen B. Miller Audubon Camp Scholarship was established in 1959 for the purpose of sending a Maryland teacher or youth worker to the Audubon Camp of his or her choice. Applicants (18 years or older) for the 1966 scholarship should send to President V. Edwin Unger (West Central Ave., Federalsburg 21632) the following information by January 1st: a statement of the use you expect to make of the experience gained at camp, your occupation, the camp you wish to attend, the two-week period you prefer, and the name of an M. O. S. member who knows you. We urge members to call this offer to the attention of teachers and youth workers. Candidate must be selected at January Trustees' meeting to assure a camp reservation.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Eastern Bird Banding Association announces a \$100 Award in Ornithology available to a college junior or senior majoring in zoology or biology or to a graduate student in ornithology. Bird banding must be used in connection with his research. Apply before Jan. 1 to Albert Schnitzer, Chairman, Memorial Award Committee, EBBA, 155 Wild Hedge Lane, Mountainside, N. J.

NEST CARDS for 1965 and prior years should be sent to David and Margaret Bridge, 12A Plateau Place, Greenbelt, Md. 20770.

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